

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 72 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claim 72, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

72. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one strain of microorganism having genes responsible for production of a sugar nucleotide comprises a recombinant microorganism having at least one gene responsible for production of a sugar nucleotide, said gene being derived from a different microorganism, or being derived from said strain of microorganism but being harbored in a plasmid.

REMARKS

Claim 72 has been amended in order to further clarify the preferred embodiment recited therein. As the Examiner will appreciate, in substantially all the production methods of the sugar nucleotide disclosed in the examples in the present specification, recombinant *E. coli* having a recombinant plasmid containing an *E. coli*-derived gene is used.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 5, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 72 remain presented for continued prosecution.